

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Baptists to pray for Clinton, work with him when possible

By Louis Moore

NASHVILLE (BP) — While pledging to pray for the new administration in Washington and work with it in whatever ways possible, conservative Southern Baptist leaders say they will not allow moral issues such as abortion and homosexual rights to become trampled in the honeymoon resulting from the election of Southern Baptists to the top two political jobs in the United States.

These leaders and other Southern Baptist observers acknowledge the economy was the driving force behind Clinton's stunning upset over President George Bush and independent challenger Ross Perot.

"Southern Baptists will be praying that God will give President-elect Clinton divine wisdom in leading this nation," said Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. "I am trusting both men (Clinton and Vice President-elect Al Gore) will commit themselves to upholding in this nation high standards of morality

and spirituality, and certainly I pray for that."

SBC President Ed Young said Southern Baptists "will support him (Clinton) in every way possible, but by the same token as Baptist people we would disagree on many moral issues, and we must take the position we believe to be in accordance with the Word of God."

Meanwhile, early tabulations indicate evangelicals, including Southern Baptists, drifted away from but did not totally abandon President Bush in the election. Exit polls show Bush captured only 58% of the evangelical vote as opposed to 75-80% in 1988.

Chapman said he and many other Southern Baptists will pray specifically that Clinton will change his position on abortion and homosexual rights.



SBC Christian Life Commission Executive Director Richard Land noted, "We will continue to resist public funding for obscene and

sacrilegious art. We will seek to work with President-elect Clinton in areas where there is agreement; we will attempt to make his administration aware of Southern

Baptist convictions and concerns on a whole array of issues, and we will oppose him when his initiatives contradict those convictions and concerns just as we did President Bush."

Beverly LaHaye, a Southern Baptist laywoman who founded Concerned Women for America, was among the most critical of the new Clinton administration.

"This is going to be very serious," she said. "It's going to be

devastating for the American family. I'm feeling brokenhearted."

LaHaye predicted Clinton will lift the ban on homosexuals in the military, will allow women into combat, will push for federal legislation supporting abortion and will appoint people to the Supreme Court who will make the court hostile toward religious entities.

"For the next four years we're going to have a constant fight in Washington to try and hang on to some of the things we've won," she said. "And we're going to have to take back the things we've lost."

Mike Huckabee, former president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and unsuccessful Republican senatorial candidate running against 18-year incumbent Democrat Dale Bumpers, said, "I think we're in for some very divisive times in America on key moral and social issues."

He said Clinton won because he "capitalized on the frustration of the American people."

Moore writes for CLC.

Voters protect abortion rights, differ on gay-rights measures

WASHINGTON (ABP) — Voters in Arizona and Maryland acted Nov. 3 to protect access to abortions, but voters in Colorado and Oregon split over what protection — if any — to offer homosexuals.

On abortion, voters in Arizona apparently defeated an initiative that would have banned abortion except to save the mother's life. Incomplete returns indicated that the measure would be defeated by 69% of the vote.

Marylanders overwhelmingly affirmed an initiative barring state interference with abortion decisions (61% to 39%). Maryland joins Connecticut, Nevada, and Washington state where citizens previously voted to guarantee access to abortions.

Abortion-rights advocates said this step is necessary if the U.S. Supreme Court overturns the 1973 Roe vs. Wade ruling that legalizes abortion. Anti-abortion forces said the Maryland law goes far beyond codifying Roe.

Homosexuality was a hot issue in Colorado and Oregon, where initiatives were designed to eliminate the rights of homosexuals.

Colorado voters approved a measure that allows discrimination of homosexuals. Under the measure, which was endorsed by the executive board of Colorado Baptists in September, local anti-bias laws cannot protect citizens

on the basis of sexual orientation. That overrides gay-rights ordinances in Denver, Aspen, and Boulder.

After the 54-36% vote, more than 200 homosexual activists disrupted a Nov. 4 Democratic victory party in Denver.

But in Oregon, a state constitutional amendment to officially declare homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse" was defeated.

In Florida, Tampa residents repealed their gay-rights law.

California rejected the chance to become the first state to allow doctor-assisted suicide. Voters apparently defeated the right-to-die proposal by 54%, although results were incomplete.

In September California Baptists, through their executive board, urged defeat of the measure, which critics said would create "death clinics."

Gambling initiatives were on several state and city ballots. Among the statewide initiatives:

— In Missouri, riverboat gambling was approved 62% to 38%, while an off-track betting measure was tied at 50% with 91% of the precincts reporting. Baptists were vocal against both plans.

— Idaho voters approved a ban on casino gambling, 58% to 42%.

— In Utah, parimutuel betting at horse tracks was defeated by 60%.

— A non-binding referendum to allow casino gambling in the U.S. Virgin Islands also went down in defeat, 62% to 38%.

— Seventy-one percent of Kentucky voters approved a measure to allow charitable gambling, such as bingo. Oklahomans approved a similar measure with 62%.

— A state lottery seemed headed for victory in Georgia with 52% of the vote. But the aggressive opposition of Baptists in the state contributed to one of the narrowest lottery victories yet.

— Nebraskans approved a state lottery by 62%.

— Mississippi narrowly approved a measure to repeal a ban on lotteries.

— An effort to repeal South Dakota's video lottery was rejected by 63% of the voters.

The death penalty was an explosive issue in the nation's capital. The District of Columbia soundly rejected a provision making first-degree murder a capital offense. The initiative, mandated by Congress, was defeated by a 2-to-1 ratio.

The death penalty also was an issue in two states. Arizona voters decided to replace the gas chamber with lethal injection as a more humane method of execution. New Jersey voters approved the death penalty for crimes where death was not intentional.

Colorado voters grappled with parental choice, a plan to provide parents with vouchers to send their children to public, private or

religious schools of their choice. Sixty-seven percent of Colorado voters rejected state vouchers for school choice.



Veteran of two services honored

Michael Johnson (left) of Clinton, associate professor of religion at Mississippi College, presents an American flag to Charles E. Martin, vice-president for academic affairs, as a memorial to his father, Ralph D. Johnson. On hand for the ceremony was Johnson's mother, Valerie Johnson. Ralph D. Johnson was a retired military veteran, serving in the U.S. Navy from 1952-56 and in the U.S. Air Force from 1956-72. The flag will be flown on special occasions at the college. (MC photo)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

We have met to worship

The larger the building, the more ornate the worship center, the greater our reverence? Wrong! Are we in danger of becoming a generation losing all sense of sacredness? Is there a plot to weave so much worldliness into our churches that the worldly will feel quite comfortable? Has the golden calf been transformed into a spirit of "freedom" where anything goes? Is "info-tainment" leading us to what F.C. Patten has called a "minimizer of the gospel, taking two tablets of Bible doctrine and dissolving them in a gallon of rose water of sentimentality, putting it in a little homiletical atomizer, and gently spraying the congregation"?

There is what Martin Marty calls the "aw shucks!" approach to worship, in which "slangy bands of believers claim intimacy with a chummy God." They mention with pride of having gone through the entire service without a bulletin. The opposite is the cold, formal, high church worship where you feel like you need an appointment to pray.

Somewhere is the "worship in truth and in Spirit." There needs to be an attitude of awe, a hungering and a thirsting for contact with

God. It is a state of mind, a holy reverence of God, and a fearful unworthiness which would elicit an Amen from Isaiah the prophet. God communicates with us through our minds, wills, and emotions. There is in effect a school of worship where the Holy Spirit teaches us adoration and love for the Father. The splendor of Almighty God is portrayed and as we nearly choke on our unworthiness, God tells us to make a sanctuary of our thoughts. The fabric is now being woven for pure worship. This produces a deeper love, a pathway of holiness, and a true evangelism.

No other person can worship for us. Sitting in a spectator pew will not accomplish this. In fact, true worship may or may not be in a building. It could be the market place, a hospital room, or even a funeral. It is the place where battles are fought for the mind and heart. It is the loving of God in heart, mind, and soul which leads to loving your neighbor as yourself.

It was following some disorder in worship services when Paul wrote for all things to be done decently and in order. The house of worship

is important, too. The "glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle," in Moses' day. God inhabits the praise of his people. Worship is the most important work of the church and demands our concentration. Baptists, at times, seem to be uncomfortable with worship. We would rather say "go to church" than "going to worship." We prefer singing about God rather than to God. "Are you going to stay for preaching?" is easier to say and expresses more than we desire. "Wait upon the Lord," and "Be still, and know that I am God," are difficult for some of us.

C. Welton Gaddy, in *The Gift of Worship*, tells us that worship precedes, pervades, and preserves evangelism. Without worship evangelism would be devoid of content. Evangelism itself is an act of worship, and this keeps people focused on our task. Let mind and heart be filled with great thoughts of God and all of life becomes an experience of worship. This leads us to corporate worship where a congregation of worshippers sing praises, read the Word, and commune with God. Expect, then, the glory of the Lord to fill the temple.

First person...

AIDS victim writes open letter

"That woman has AIDS." The words cut through me like a knife. I looked up with horror and saw a man I had never seen before pointing at me from the end of the pew. I wanted to run out of the church before anyone realized who he was talking about, but I couldn't move.

My worst fears seemed to be coming true. The rejection and judgment I had dreaded was now a reality.

It had been a little over six months since I had tested positive for HIV — the virus that causes AIDS. I had told very few people of my infection. Finally I had found the courage to tell my Sunday School class. I remember that morning as though it were only yesterday. I was so scared, but the director sat right next to me. I could feel her arm around me for emotional support.

I began by saying that what I wanted to tell them was confidential and that it was very important to me and my future that it not leave the room. I also said I had told only a few people and if I wanted anyone else to know I would be the one to tell them.

Everyone in the room agreed to honor my request for confidentiali-

ty, so I felt safe in telling them of my infection. As I talked, I watched their faces. After I finished I could tell I had caught them completely off guard and that they were full of questions. I gave them plenty of opportunity to ask whatever they wanted to, and I answered their questions as well as I could. As we left Sunday School that morning I felt good about what had just happened. It was such a relief to know I wasn't alone and that those I had just confided in supported me.

That's why the next Sunday was such a shock. I sat in my usual seat in church and a few minutes later a family started to come into the pew. Suddenly, without warning the man pulled his wife back and said in rather a loud, nervous voice, "We can't sit here!" When his wife asked why, I heard the man say in an even louder voice, "That woman has AIDS," and pointed directly at me. I could feel eyes looking at me with fear and contempt. As soon as I could move, I ran from the church in tears. My secret was out and I was terrified.

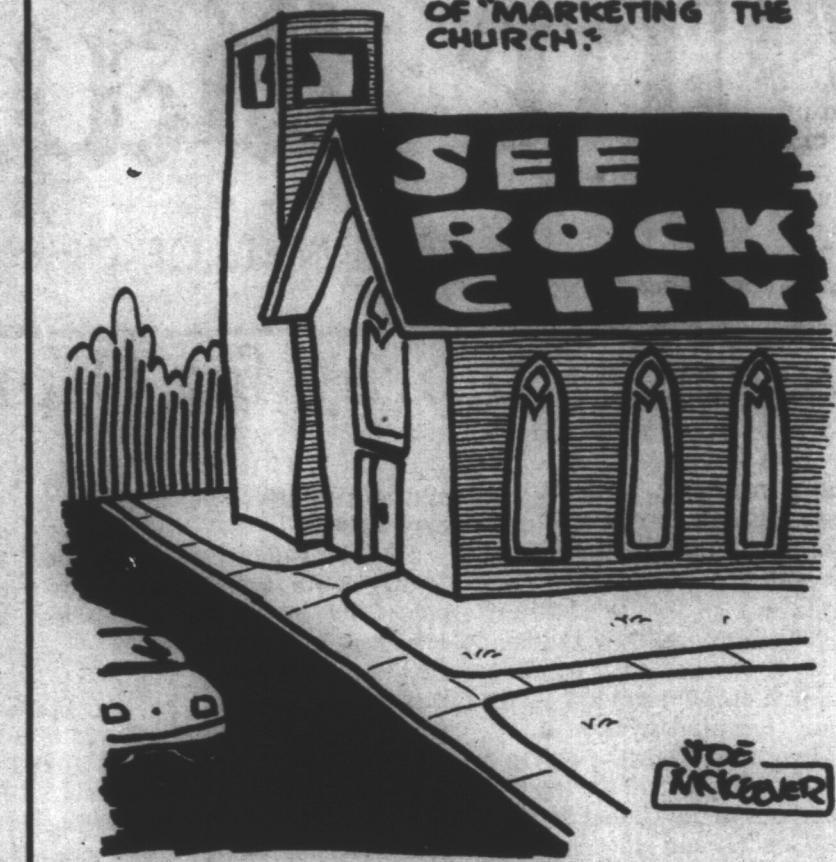
So I found another church. Only this time I am once again carrying my secret inside of me. My new

pastor knows of my infection. I told him before I even joined his church. His reaction was so different — he put his arms around me and hugged me like I hadn't been hugged in a very long time. I could feel his tears and I felt safe enough to let him see mine. That's the kind of pastor I had needed. That's the kind we all need.

Why am I sharing all of this with you? Because AIDS is a Baptist issue and Baptists do get AIDS. I know I am not the only Baptist battling this disease. I feel a responsibility to do whatever I can to make sure no one else has to go through what I went through. How can we minister to those affected by AIDS? Most importantly, we need to be educated about this disease. I believe the main reason I felt forced to leave my church was because of ignorance. That I can't understand or accept.

It's crucial that we unite to combat the ignorance surrounding AIDS. Educate yourselves and your churches. Make the church a safe haven once again where people can feel the compassion that Christ calls us to share. If we can't turn to our brothers and sisters in Christ, who can we turn to? (BP)

ONE MORNING THE NEIGHBORS WERE SURPRISED TO FIND THAT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, TOO, HAD FALLEN FOR THE FAD OF "MARKETING THE CHURCH."



Keep those cards and letters coming

Our foreign missionaries should be receiving more mail than ever. I can recall days and days of no mail at all when we were on the field. Then a ship would come in and missionaries would get a month's supply of mail, newspapers, etc. We seldom received junk mail; we read anything. We could spend a day just reading the Seed and Feed store catalog.

However, in the last few days the missionary's mail has been heavy. First, former FMB president, Keith Parks, fired his final salvo explaining why he retired when he did not want to retire. Next, John Jackson, FMB trustee chairman of California, wrote a lengthy epistle telling why Parks should not have written his epistle. For a season the trustees operated on the principle, "if it ain't broke, break it." Jackson says those days are over and even though "some trustees may have violated their role," they have been chastised and will not do it any more. He described Parks' letter as having sent "shock waves throughout the mission field" not to mention the SBC.

This appears to be a valid charge. Parks had said earlier he

would do nothing to hurt the FMB program. Now he lists 10 areas where the FMB has changed since the fundamental/conservative resurgence. Perhaps listing these did not hurt foreign missions, but it hurt the feelings of the trustees. Jackson declares the trustees would disagree on most allegations made by Parks.

Meanwhile, the postman is still ringing. Interim President Don Kammerdiener, in office only three days, tries to placate the trustees, reassure the missionaries, and inform all Southern Baptists. He comes near pulling it off. "The world must not wait on our witness," and "our calling is to live by faith and not by our fears. The time has come to move forward."

We have almost 4,000 missionaries, battling evil in distant climes, and trumpeters giving uncertain sounds back at headquarters. About all we can say is your calling comes from the Lord; follow Him. There are at least two sides to every question. The situation is not as good as some think, nor as bad as others believe. Finally brethren, heed the interim president's admonition and live by faith, not fear. — GH

Convention news coverage

Pastors, lay people, and visitors are beginning to gather at First Church, Jackson, as we go to press. News coverage of the Convention will be published in the Nov. 19 issue. About half of the state conventions in the SBC are holding their annual meetings this week; attendance is expected to be high at all of them.

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Annuity Board's program for prescriptions begins '93

DALLAS (BP) — A new managed prescription drug program combining the Annuity Board's current mail order service with a national network of retail pharmacies will go into effect Jan. 1, 1993, for all participants in the board's comprehensive medical plans.

"Twenty years ago, prescription drugs represented only 4% of health benefit costs, compared to 10 to 15% today," said Joel Mathis, senior vice president of the board's insurance division. "We believe this new program will help to curb rising medical costs and offer better service to our participants."

Health Care Services (HCS) of

Bensalem, Pa., will continue to provide mail order prescription drugs. The only change in January is that participants will pay 20 percent of the cost of the medication rather than a flat fee. The minimum cost of a prescription will be \$5 and the maximum cost will not exceed \$100 for up to a three-month supply. Prepayment will not be required.

PCS Health Systems, based in Scottsdale, Ariz., will participate in the acute care retail portion of the prescription drug program. Each participant will receive a PCS identification card in December that can be presented beginning Jan. 1 at more than 50,000 participating pharmacies in the United States.

Mississippi Cooperative Program gifts rise three percent over 1991

With only two months to go on the 1992 Cooperative Program budget, Mississippi Baptists have given a total of \$17,847,184, according to Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, which distributes the funds.

This amount is \$525,447 (or

3.03%) more than that given in the first 10 months of 1991 and is only \$143,179 (or .8%) less than the pro rata budget amount of \$17,990,363.

Giving by the nearly 2,000 participating churches for October totaled \$1,858,527.

The 1992 Cooperative Program budget is \$21,588,435.

Pre-convention meetings begin

Pre-convention meetings are in progress as we prepare to go to press. The Clarke College recommendation (see *Baptist Record*, Nov. 5 issue) was approved by the Convention Board without opposition and will have gone to the convention floor by publication time.

The 1993 budget was also approved and presented to the Convention on Tuesday.

Reports were heard by the Convention Board from various committees relating to pastoral-church building aid and new church expansion. A procedural change was also made in Annuity Board policy.

The Pastors' Conference met Monday at noon and attended a Rapha-sponsored luncheon. In its afternoon session, J. Garland

McKee, director of the Evangelism Department, MBCB, spoke on "And in a Little While," followed by Jack Millwood of First Church, North Mobile, Ala. Robert McGee of Houston, president of Rapha, and Fred Wolfe, Mobile pastor, were also speakers.

The Lay Missions Conference, held Monday afternoon, included 12 special conferences dealing with various areas of ministry. Bruce Allen of Atlanta spoke to the marketplace ministries conference.

A banquet was held Monday evening, where reports were delivered by Ingram Foster on Zimbabwe and Larry Taylor on Russia. Jeanette Clift George delivered a delightful message on "Being What You Are in Missions."

Lay renewal takes Mississippi Baptists to a "higher level"

By Sarah Zimmerman

TOCCOA, Ga. — The Southern Baptist lay renewal movement took Earnest Gunter from being a "pew warmer" to "a higher level of fellowship with God," he says.

"Through my first renewal weekend I was able to see what God could do with lay people," said the member of West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo. "It turned out to be a life-long commitment."

Gunter was among 300 people meeting at Toccoa, Ga., to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Southern Baptist renewal movement. It now involves 18,000 people as volunteers, and Southern Baptist churches have an average of 600 renewal events each year.

"I've seen a lot of people saved," Gunter said. "I've seen relationships healed. I've seen marriages saved. I've seen people bud and grow. It's

never gotten old. It encourages me to keep on doing what God wants me to do."

Lay renewal weekends are the "best kept secret" in Mississippi, said Sidney Ellis. Ellis moved from Greenville to Jackson in February to work as volunteer statewide lay renewal coordinator.

Mississippi churches have about 60 lay renewal weekends a year, Ellis said. The state has 12 people who coordinate weekend events in local churches, plus two people preparing to be coordinators, he said.

Darrell Robinson, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism, said he hopes the number of lay renewal weekends will multiply and that every church needs one.

"By the year 2000, we will have an army of laity so that lay members

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Kammerdiener says it's time for FMB to "move ahead"

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — In the wake of a year of turmoil at the Foreign Mission Board, Don Kammerdiener moved quickly during his first work day as interim president to reassure missionaries and board employees.

"I regret more than I can say the distress many of you are feeling," he said. "No simple words of assurance will fully answer the questions."

Kammerdiener, a 30-year missions veteran, assumes the interim presidency with the daunting task of rebuilding public confidence in the board — and its confidence in itself.

In less than a year the board has weathered constant debate about its direction under conservative trustee control, a wave of resignations by unhappy missionaries, the early retirements of two vice presidents in protest of trustee policies and — perhaps most painful of all — the reluctant retirement Oct. 31 of its president, Keith Parks.

Parks closed out his tenure with a letter to missionaries insisting things indeed have changed for the worse at the board, despite protestations by trustees to the contrary. The changes, he said, include decisions shaped by "ultra-conservative" theology rather than tested mission principles; an atmosphere of "suspicion, distrust, criticism, and intimidation;" enforced conformity; a decline in career missionary appointments and increased emphasis on volunteers that is "bringing an imbalance overseas;" trustee involvement in day-to-day administration; pres-

sure on the board's news office "to report only 'positive' news;" and the asking of prospective staff members "for expressions of loyalty toward trustees and/or the 'conservative resurgence.'"

In the meantime, Kammerdiener will be "fully empowered" to act as president, FMB trustee chairman John Jackson told *Baptist Press* Nov. 2. That includes the go-ahead to recommend people for election to high-level vacancies at the board, Jackson said.

Moving to specifics, Kammerdiener also said:

— No "substantive change in the (missionary) appointment process" has occurred, "nor is there any review of the process under way or contemplated. The *Baptist Faith and Message* is the only theological statement referenced in interviews or in written materials."

— "Serious studies" continue on the best use of short-term volunteers overseas as the flood of interest in such service continues to rise among churches. As the discussion proceeds, however, "I affirm... the primary role of God-called and Spirit-gifted career missionaries."

— "I affirm without reservation the need for a professionally credible and free news policy carried out by Baptists who are committed to the cause of world missions."

— Missionaries and staff should and will be held accountable to their colleagues and by trustees. "By the same token the work of trustees is and must be subject to the evaluation and criticism of Southern Baptists. No missionary

will be penalized for participation in such evaluation."

Later, trustee chairman Jackson joined Kammerdiener for a lunchtime question-and-answer session with staff. They were asked about continuing complaints of trustees' rudeness toward middle- and lower-level employees and whether employees will be "interrogated" by trustees or asked to swear allegiance to the "conservative resurgence."

"I have never been asked to identify with the 'conservative resurgence,'" Kammerdiener answered. "I'm on the side of foreign missions. I believe that's where the vast majority of trustees and staff want to be.... The issue is not: are you with the 'conservative resurgence' or against it? The issue is: are you in favor with all of your heart and soul with the evangelization of this world? That is our calling and that is our intention."

Asked if the board would work with the mission arm of the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Kammerdiener said he wants good relationships with all "Great Commission" or evangelistic Christians. "It would be hollow to say we want that with Great Commission Christians but not include other Baptists," he said. "I'm not predicting a merger or anything of the sort. I am saying that this board does not have time to do battle with other Christians, whoever they may be."

Expanding on his views of open news reporting of board activities, Kammerdiener said Baptists and "anybody else work best when they have full and unbiased and free information passing through all the channels of communication. I think that the (press) representatives of this board ought to be Baptists committed to the purposes of this board. I think they ought to be professionals who will do their work in the best possible fashion, and I think they should be free to do that work without interference from the administration or the trustees."

Jackson acknowledged some of the board's writers had "gotten bashed" by trustees frustrated with their stories, but added he thinks the press is doing a "pretty fair job" in their reporting overall.

He made one more request: "If you want to pray for me, pray for wisdom — wisdom to do the right thing, in the right way and at the right time and be willing to take the consequences for the decisions that are made."

Bridges writes for FMB.

Zimmerman writes for HMB.



"*ThanksLiving*," a documentary hosted by longtime Dallas Cowboy coach Tom Landry (standing) will be aired during the Thanksgiving holidays on NBC-TV. Produced by the Radio and Television Commission in cooperation with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, it features the inspiring stories of (left to right) Rob Bryant, paraplegic whose physical feats are his testimony of thanks; Wendy Harpham, recovering lymphoma victim who said thanks with a book aimed at encouraging other cancer victims; George Rojas, former circus motorcycle daredevil, who says thanks each Saturday by distributing sandwiches to the homeless; and Lucy Collins, whose positive spirit inspired a poor community to rebuild a fire-ravaged school in six weeks. (RTVC photo by Melynda Webster)

Landry hosts RTVC's *ThanksLiving*, on NBC

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Tom Landry, longtime coach of the Dallas Cowboys, will host "*ThanksLiving*," a TV special produced by the Radio and Television Commission to air on NBC during the Thanksgiving holidays.

Rosser McDonald, RTVC producer who wrote, produced, and directed the special, promises, "*ThanksLiving* will captivate the viewer with comeback stories told by the actual people involved." Those stories include:

— a paraplegic who completed a record-setting journey from Los Angeles, Calif., to Washington, D.C., on a row cycle.

— a lymphoma cancer patient, also a physician, whose book writ-

ten to inspire other victims has gone to a second printing.

— a school principal whose determination inspired a high-crime Hispanic community to restore her fire-gutted school in only six weeks so it could open on time.

— an ex-circus motorcycle daredevil who expresses thanks for a changed life by distributing meals each Saturday to the homeless who huddle under interstate highway bridges.

ThanksLiving will be a second appearance for Landry in an RTVC production. He also hosted the popular "*Set Free*" in 1991, a documentary about prison ministries produced for NBC.

Southern Baptists in Congress among leaders in tobacco gifts

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — Thirteen Southern Baptists, five in the Senate and eight in the House of Representatives, ranked among the leading recipients of contributions from the tobacco industry, according to a recent report.

Four of the 13 also were among the leaders in accepting donations from the alcohol industry, according to a report released less than two weeks previously.

Southern Baptists who were in the top 25 in the Senate in tobacco industry contributions were Jesse Helms, R.-N.C., second, \$60,950; Wendell Ford, D.-Ky., third, \$59,774; Mitch McConnell, R.-Ky., fifth, \$49,500; Thad Cochran, R.-Miss., 18th, \$22,450; and Trent Lott, R.-Miss., 22nd, \$21,000.

Results of the research on tobacco industry gifts, titled "The Congressional Addiction to Tobacco: How the Tobacco Lobby Suffocates Federal Health Policy," were announced Oct. 26 by two Washington-based consumer interest groups, Public Citizen and the

Advocacy Institute.

"Until politicians go 'cold turkey,' or are forced by constituents to go 'cold turkey,' federal policies will continue to be dominated by tobacco interests instead of what is in the best interests of public health," said James A. Smith, the Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "It's discouraging that Southern Baptist lawmakers seem no different than other politicians when it comes to accepting these tainted gifts."

The influence of the tobacco industry was illustrated in the 102nd Congress, the report said. During 1991-92, 29 bills, resolutions and amendments designed to combat tobacco problems were introduced in Congress. None of 13 Senate measures became law. Of the 16 House measures, two were passed, with one of those weakened during negotiations.

Strode is director of media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

Southern Baptists to expand ministry training in Northeast

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists are making an effort to expand ministry training opportunities for Baptists in the Northeast.

Members of the Northeast Task Team for Theological Education (NETTTE) have adopted a \$130,000 budget goal for 1993 — more than double their current budget.

NETTTE is a joint effort of the six Southern Baptist seminaries, the Home Mission Board and the Southern Baptist state conventions of Pennsylvania/South Jersey, New York, Maryland/Delaware, and New England. It functions to provide oversight and fund-raising for ministry training activities in the Northeast.

"Many people in the Northeast who feel a call into the ministry cannot move to one of the six Southern Baptist seminaries," said Ken Lyle, NETTTE chairperson and executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. "Through NETTTE-sponsored activities, we can train our people who are called to ministry vocations."

The increased budget NETTTE expects to raise will be used to sponsor seminars, conferences, research projects, and mentor training programs. In addition, NETTTE underwrites Southern Baptist seminary professors who lead pastors in the January Bible Study and other workshops in the Northeast.

NETTTE is looking for a on-site program coordinator. The additional budget will help fund the full-time position, to be responsi-

ble for scheduling NETTTE activities, fund-raising events, seminars, and conferences.

NETTTE also will use its increased budget to expand space for a library, hire seminary faculty, and purchase a computer system at one of its sponsored programs, the Northeastern Baptist School of Ministry (NEBSM) in Northboro,

Mass., a degree program of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Information about NETTTE may be obtained from McCarty at 901 Commerce St., Suite 500, Nashville, TN 37203, (615) 242-2453, or Lyle at the Baptist Convention of MD/DE, 10255 Old Columbia Road, Columbia, MD 21046, (301) 290-5290.

NOBTS partners nearby Claiborne Elementary

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary and Claiborne Elementary School have been neighbors for more than 30 years. Now the two schools are more than just neighbors — they're partners.

Nestled in the heart of a quiet Gentilly Woods neighborhood, Claiborne is just six blocks from the seminary. The two schools have established a growing mutual commitment for each other. More than 70 children of New Orleans seminary students currently attend Claiborne. And one professor's wife and one student's wife are teachers there.

The seminary also provides grounds and maintenance assistance as well as the use of some office equipment and the seminary's chapel for graduation and awards services.

New Orleans professor Walter Brown has been instrumental in shaping the cooperative association between the schools. Due in large

part to his efforts, the number of children from the seminary attending Claiborne has risen from 28 in May 1991 to more than 70 in September 1992.

"When my wife, Joyce, and I decided to come back to New Orleans (in August 1989), we made the commitment to minister in the city," said Brown, a native of Baldwyn, Miss., and a former associate professor of religion at William Carey College in Hattiesburg.

One way the Brown family has worked to minister is involvement at Claiborne. "My wife teaches at Claiborne and our children, Jonathan and Lindsay, attend there. We have encouraged others from the seminary to get involved in the school as well," Brown said.

"We can have a positive impact on a local school with attention, time, and energy," said Mark Foley, the seminary's director of student relations.

Parks' letter "harmful," Jackson says

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Most trustees of the Foreign Mission Board believe a recent letter to missionaries from outgoing FMB President Keith Parks was "harmful" to the cause of missions, according to trustee chairman John Jackson.

In his own letter to missionaries, Jackson said he was "shocked" that Parks, "in the waning hours of his administration," would send "shock waves" throughout the mission field and the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I have to believe that his letter was not intended to harm missions," wrote Jackson, a California pastor. "However, most, if not all, of the trustees view it as harmful to relationships between staff, missionaries, and trustees."

Parks, in his Oct. 23 letter to the FMB's 3,900 missionaries, said the agency is undergoing significant changes in philosophy and methodology — changes which he said influenced his decision to retire earlier than planned. Trustees have replaced mission principles with "ultra-conservative" theology in decision-making, Parks wrote, and stepped up scrutiny of new missionaries and staff members. The result is an atmosphere of suspicion and distrust and an expectation of conformity at the FMB, he said.

Jackson, who said trustees disagree with most of Parks' charges, registered specific objections to two claims — that trustees are overly involved in administrative decisions and that they have changed the role of missionaries.

"As I have previously stated, I do not believe the vast majority of the trustees have become involved in administrative affairs at the board, nor do they desire to," Jackson wrote.

Some trustees have violated their

proper role "on a few occasions" by making requests or demands of staff, Jackson conceded, but he has intervened when made aware of it. Such mistakes have been made by "God-fearing men and women who are attempting to follow God's leadership," he said.

Jackson said his "primary reason" for writing the missionaries was "to tell you that you are loved, respected, honored, and admired by the staff, trustees and the Southern Baptist constituency...."

Witnessing relationships topic of Jackson seminar

A seminar on Building Witnessing Relationships will take place at the Baptist Building in Jackson, Nov. 16-17.

Jointly sponsored by the Evangelism Department of the convention board and the Home Mission Board, the seminar offers training in building trust relationships where non-Christians can become more receptive to Christ's message.

The course is designed for persons who have already been trained in some other basic witnessing program.

Jack Smith of the Personal Evan-

gelism Department of the HMB and Tommy Echols, minister of education at Ridge Ave. Church, West Monroe, La., will lead the course.

Cost is \$75 per person. Contact the Evangelism Department for registration. At press time, one scholarship was yet available. The \$75 covers the cost of two meals, materials, and conference leader expenses.

The program begins with registration at 12:30 on Monday and concludes with discussion and prayer at 5:30 the next afternoon.

Voters remove lottery ban; fight moves to legislature

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippians approved the lifting of a 102-year-old constitutional ban on lotteries Nov. 3, paving the way for the Mississippi legislature to design the state-run game of chance during their January 1993 session. Anti-lottery leaders vowed, however, to move the fight against the lottery into the legislature.

With 100% of statewide precincts reporting, the lottery proposal passed with slightly less than 53% of the vote. On the morning after the election, state Senator Tommy Gollott of Biloxi pre-filed the first of several lottery bills expected in the 1993 legislative session.

Paul Griffin Jones II, executive director of the Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, said the campaign against the lottery is far from over and that work will begin immediately on a project to give legislators a clear picture of the Nov. 3 vote.

"Many legislative districts con-

tain parts of several counties, so a county-by-county vote total is not very helpful to legislators trying to determine how their specific districts voted on the lottery. We intend to develop a statewide, precinct-by-precinct breakdown of the vote and then match each precinct to specific legislative districts so that legislators can get a better idea of where the people in their particular district stand on the lottery," Jones said.

He expects some surprising results from such a breakdown, especially in areas where the vote was very tight.

The information will then be transmitted to legislators and to local anti-lottery groups that spearheaded the drive against the Nov. 3 lottery vote, such as Baptist directors of missions and

Christian Action chairmen, he said.

The CAC will also track and carefully scrutinize each of the numerous lottery bills expected to be filed in the legislature. Jones said, in order to call attention to weaknesses and other problems that would make the bills unworkable.

Citizens Advocating Responsible Economics (CARE), an anti-lottery group formed earlier this year to fight the proposal, held nine rallies around the state in a bid to defeat the lottery. Former state Senator Bill Alexander of Cleveland, chairman of CARE, wants his organization to continue the anti-lottery crusade.

"Everybody I have talked to so far believes we should continue our fight against the lottery. Fifty-two and one half percent of the votes by no means constitutes a mandate. We lost big in Harrison, Jackson, and one or two other big counties but we won most of the rest of the counties," he said.

CARE has tentatively scheduled a meeting for Nov. 19 in Jackson to gauge support for continuing the work of the organization and to discuss strategies for defeating lottery proposals in the legislature.

As election day neared, organizers began to express cautious confidence that the proposal would be defeated. Close vote totals in many of the state's 82 counties eventually tipped in favor of passage, however.

The closest tally was recorded in Leake County, where opponents won by 15 votes. The largest margin of victory was in Harrison County, where the proposal passed by 21,287 votes.

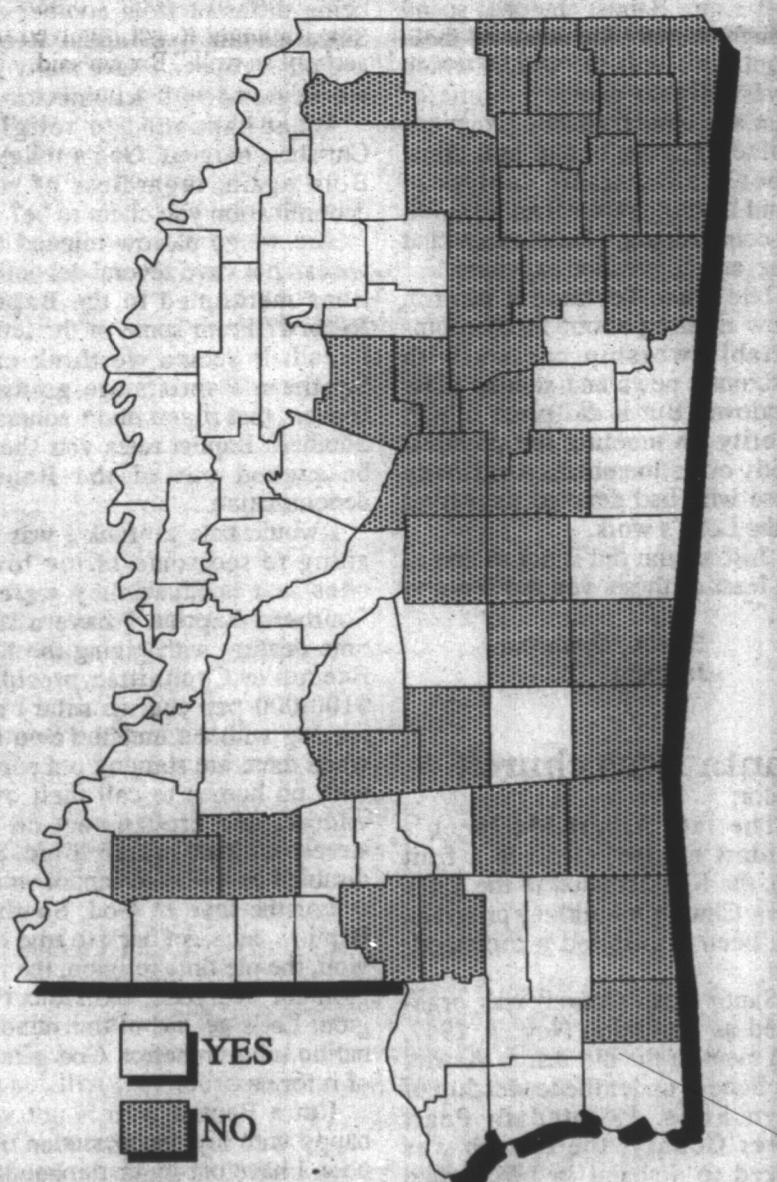
In an interesting twist, many of the state's urban, affluent counties voted in favor of the lottery, while many of the state's poorest counties voted in opposition to the proposal. Lottery critics contended before the election that poor people had been hoodwinked by pie-in-the-sky promises, while people with higher incomes, better educations and more conservative voting patterns would not buy into it.

"I believe people who traditionally vote conservative were in favor of the lottery because they don't want any further taxation laid on them. While many of them may not believe in the lottery, they voted their pocketbooks," Jones said.

Gambling opponents managed one victory, however, when DeSoto County, located just south of Memphis, overwhelmingly rejected riverboat casino gambling for the second time in as many years. A Memphis-based gambling company admitted spending nearly \$300,000 in an unsuccessful effort to influence the outcome of the vote.

Lottery vote

Yes: 443,001 (53%)
No: 381,056 (47%)



Note: Vote total not available for Claiborne County.
Early returns indicated a tie vote in Yalobusha County.

Thursday, November 12, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



New Brotherhood board chairman

Robert E. Hill (second from left), pastor of Calvary Church, Cleveland, was recently elected chairman of the Brotherhood Commission's board of trustees. Joining Hill are (from left) James D. Williams, president of the Brotherhood Commission; Donley Brown, Missouri, recording secretary; and Willard Finch, North Carolina, vice-chairman. (Photo by David Nester)

Liquor proposals lose in two of three races

Anti-alcohol forces were able to turn back challenges in two of three local referenda held in connection with the Nov. 3 general election.

Rankin County voters did not approve a measure that would have legalized the sale of hard liquor in the county, where a beer sales proposal passed last fall. A hard-hitting and expensive advertising campaign is credited with

turning the tide against the measure.

Liquor sales were approved in the portion of Lamar County that has been incorporated into the city of Hattiesburg, which was already wet. The remainder of Lamar County remains dry.

In Quitman County, a referendum to legalize Sunday beer and light wine sales failed by 107 votes out of a total vote count of 2,563.

SBC eyebrows raised at CBF's mission offering

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP) — Promotion of a "Global Missions Offering" for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has drawn criticism from Southern Baptist Convention executives who see it as competition for the denomination's mission offerings.

The CBF sent publicity packets for its first Global Missions Offering, which has a goal of \$2 million, to more than 700 Baptist churches. The offering would go to "undergird (the Fellowship's) mission work where others have broken that promise," Cecil E. Sherman, coordinator for the Atlanta-based CBF Coordinating Council, said in a cover letter included with the packets.

With a theme "Keeping the Promises," \$345,000 of the CBF offering would go to Baptist Theological Seminary in Rischlikon, Switzerland (defunded by the SBC Foreign Mission Board last year), \$1.2 million for the ministry of new "missionaries" employed by the CBF and \$455,000 for relief for hungry and homeless people, Sherman said.

But the timing of the CBF offering, shortly before promotion begins for the SBC's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign

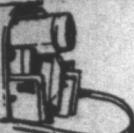
Missions, drew the ire of several SBC officials.

"Don't let anybody tell you that Southern Baptists have lost their long-held vision for world missions," Chapman said. "We do need the help of every Southern Baptist church. I have great faith that our Southern Baptist churches, with a few exceptions, will not participate in anything which attempts to undermine our world missions efforts through the Cooperative Program and special mission offerings."

Regarding the CBF's "Keeping the Promises" theme, Foreign Mission Board interim President Don Kammerdiener responded: "I feel some promises have been made to Southern Baptist missionaries. I hope Baptists will want to keep the promises made to support those missionaries who went out on faith that Southern Baptists would continue to support them."

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, said, "I regret any efforts which would erode support for Southern Baptist missionaries on the field by promotion of a competitive missions offering."

Hollinger is director, BP.



Letters to the editor



Expresses thanks

Editor:

In our Baptist tradition of saying "Thank you for a job well done," let me raise a salute to gallant comrades at the Baptist Sunday School Board, especially the large number now being moved into early retirement.

Oct. 30 was the last work day for 134 employees included in the 159 retiring from the Board since Sept. 1, 1992. They represent 9% of the Board's work force and approximately 4,000 years of service.

During the last 15 months, 27 of the 48 trustee-elected management leaders have left the Board by resignation, termination, or early retirement, including 12 of the 14 who served on the Board's executive staff and worked directly with me as president.

All these employees have given their skills, knowledge, industry, experience, and relationships to the vast work of the Nashville-based church programs and publications agency, the largest of its kind in the world. They have edited the publications, sold the products, shipped the materials, led the conferences, served as consultants to the churches and people, and tended to all the Board's business from top to bottom.

Of those now retiring, 128 live

in the Nashville area, and others across the nation. Some have served during the tenures of as many as four Board presidents: James L. Sullivan, Grady C. Cothen, Lloyd Elder, and James T. Draper. They are our next-door neighbors, workers in our churches, and volunteers in our communities. Their children are in our schools, young people in our universities, and spouses in the workforce. They pay taxes, bills, and rent; they minister to the needs of others.

Like many of you, some of these were ready for retirement, and it has been welcomed; but for others, retirement as early as mid-50s has caused career disruption, financial crisis, or family distress. But to all of them, we raise our salute as fellow Southern Baptists and place high value on their Christian calling. We recognize their need for new opportunities and beginnings, and wish them well in this turn of their journey.

Lloyd Elder
Former president
BSSB

Offers a solution

Editor:

Thank you for running Kirby F. Warnock's article (Oct. 29) concerning the plight of many of our

retired pastors and their wives. My heart was broken as it brought my grandmother to mind. She was a preacher's widow for 35 years and I remember her receiving a \$75 check quarterly.

I am personally ashamed of myself that these blessed servants of God exist below any acceptable standard of living. We should all be ashamed and act immediately to settle this problem.

The amount needed is \$2.25 million. That amount is less than 1% of the total giving for our Mississippi Baptist churches in 1991. But let's get the job done quickly and personally in love. If every resident member of every SBC church in Mississippi gave \$5 once, it would amount to \$2.4 million.

You say, "That's too simple." It can't be any simpler. We either care or we don't! I think the Lord sees it just as simply. For the price of one breakfast bar, we can enhance the twilight years of these saints.

Paul admonished the Galatians to "do good to all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." I am naive enough to believe that we don't need budget allocations or business meetings to get the job done. I challenge every Mississippi Baptist to send at least \$5 right now. Let's just do it! Let's get it done before

Christmas and honor the Lord by blessing those who have faithfully served.

Tell us again how to make out the checks and where to send them. Have a Brinks truck stand by to hold the blessing that God stands ready to pour out through his people! May God bless you as you bless his servants.

Bob Scott
Laurel

Editor's note: Checks should be made out to Annuity Board, SBC, and sent to the Adopt an Annuitant Program, Annuity Board, Box 2190, Dallas, TX 75221-2190. Call 1-800-262-0511 to request a free copy of the videotape, "Helping Our Family."

line Park.

In a quandary about what to do with the money, former pastor Richard Lubbert encouraged the church to invest the money and use the interest in the Lord's work.

After all debts were paid, the church used the remainder, \$36,171.63, to set up the First Baptist Church of Santa Rosa Memorial Trust Fund with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, with the interest going each year to the Cooperative Program.

Since 1963, with capitol gains and additional contributions, the fund has grown to \$45,687.51, and \$104,024 in earnings have been contributed through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to the Cooperative Program.

Albert McQueen's \$.50 keeps on growing and growing. To God be the glory!

Irma K. Frierson
Picayune

Not happy as Baptist
Editor:

I have been reading the **Baptist Record** for two years because I have only been a Christian that long. I have been a member of the Baptist denomination for several years, but was never saved until Dec. 9, 1990, at age 53. I have never really just sat down and thought about one denomination being different from another one. Since reading the **Baptist Record** and other papers, I have really gotten disgusted with denominations.

What happened to religion, Christian religion, God's religion? Born again, regardless of what denomination you claim to be?

Are we so narrow-minded that we can not have several denominations mentioned in the **Baptist Record**? From some of the letters I read, it seems we think only Southern Baptists are going to heaven, that if you don't adhere to Southern Baptist rules you should be kicked out of the Baptist denomination.

I would hate to think I was not going to see some of my loved ones just because they weren't Southern Baptist. I have a hard time dealing with giving the SBC Executive Committee president \$100,000 per year in salary and leaving with a Lincoln Town Car when there are starving old people with no homes to call their own, widows and orphans out on the streets with no where to go, and disabled people who cannot work.

For the love of God, Southern Baptists, let's get back to true religion, the ole time religion, the religion for everyone, the Jesus religion. Let's get rid of this denomination religion before God gets rid of it for us.

I'm a Baptist who is not very happy with my denomination right now. I have put it into the hands of God. Wherever he leads me I'll go, not as a Baptist or Catholic or any other denomination, but as a child of God.

Betty Caffey
Jackson

Santa Rosa church

Editor:

The late Albert McGueen's "widow's mite" (\$.50 in a fruit jar), the first donation to the Santa Rosa Church's building program, has been multiplied a thousand-fold.

Santa Rosa Church was organized as a mission Nov. 7, 1947, and met in the old Aaron Academy School under the leadership of Olyn Sims. Located in Pearl River County, the church was forced to disband in 1963 when the NASA test site moved in. The government gave the church \$42,500 for its property. The church's buildings were given to Waveland Church, which started a mission, now church, in Shore-

BWA president sends congratulations, promises to pray for Clinton and Gore

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Baptist World Alliance, representing a worldwide community of 80 million Baptists, congratulated fellow Baptists Bill Clinton and Al Gore on their victory Nov. 3 and promised to pray for them.

"Congratulations," BWA President Knud Wumpelmann said in a message to Clinton. "As President of the world's leading nation and as a fellow-Baptist, you will in the years to come have the prayer support of Baptists around the world. God bless you with wisdom and courage."

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz wrote in an open letter to Clinton and Gore: "Your Baptist brothers and sisters around the world assure you of their prayers for God's wisdom and guidance in your significant world leadership position."

Clinton is a member of Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark., one of the city's largest Southern Baptist churches. His wife, Hillary, is a member of the First Methodist Church of Little Rock.

Gore and his wife, Tipper, belong to Mount Vernon Church in Arlington, Va., where they were baptized in 1980.

In his letter of congratulations, Lotz cited Baptist presidents such as Harry Truman and Jimmy Carter but noted Clinton and Gore are "the first Baptist team to ever serve these leadership positions" and this has led many people to

ask, "Who are the Baptists and what do they believe?"

In his open letter, Lotz listed four Baptist distinctives: the democratic principle, separation of church and state, soul freedom, and justice. Remembering these, he said, would make the newly elected leaders "strong and reliable leaders of courage and conscience."

Calling Clinton and Gore "brothers," Lotz said his use of the term "emphasizes the democratic principle of our Baptist tradition." It was also a sign of "deep respect," Lotz said, because "every person is equal before the altar of God."

"No bishop, pastor or hierarchy may tell us what to believe," Lotz wrote.

On the separation of church and state, Lotz said, "having suffered and been ostracized for religious freedom in the prisons and ghettos of European church-state hegemony, Baptists have defended the separation of church and state."

Lotz wrote that Roger Williams, the first Baptist leader in the United States, had made the conviction very clear that "religious freedom is for everyone."

"The state must remain neutral in the face of conflicting religious demands," Lotz said, "but this does not mean that the church cannot speak out on issues of justice and morality."

Citing John Bunyan, John Milton, Walter Rauschenbusch, and

Martin Luther King, Lotz said "there is indeed a prophetic protest within the Christian faith."

"We will pray for you," Lotz wrote, "but we will reserve our Christian right and duty to be a prophetic movement calling for government and humanity to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God."

"Every individual is free to respond to God and Scripture in the way the Spirit leads them," Lotz wrote about "soul freedom."

"In other words, everyone has the right to be a heretic," Lotz said. "Whether we agree with them or not we defend their right to so believe and our right to disagree."

"With joy we affirm the United Nation's articles on religious freedom," Lotz wrote.

"No other religious group in the U.S.A. is made up equally of as many African Americans or Europeans as the community of 50 million Baptists in the U.S.A.," Lotz wrote, "therefore your tradition represents basically a working class popular movement of justice for all."

Lotz told Clinton and Gore while there will be areas of disagreement, the letter was an assurance to them of worldwide Baptist prayer support "that you will be good examples of tolerance and at the same time faithful witness to your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."

HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 12, 1992

PRAYERGRAM

Nov. 12-26, 1992

PRAY for the Baptist Student ministry of Canada that it will reach hundreds of university students. Pray for the equipping of these students that they may become influential church leaders throughout Canada. Pray for missionaries Robert and Kellie Sue Hooker who work with students.

PRAY for Liberia that is once again in civil war. Pray for the missionaries that they may have wisdom as to evacuation from the country. Pray for the people of Liberia and especially for the Christian people that they can witness and serve those in need.

PRAY for the need for student workers among the university students of Taegu, South Korea. The need is so great. Pray that leaders will respond to the need and the call of God.

PRAY for Gordon Tennis of Hastings, MN. who is working to begin a church in Hastings, MN. The people are currently meeting in small group fellowships. They have as their goal to constitute a church on Easter Sunday, 1993. Pray that they can find someone with artistic talent to help in their printed outreach material that is to be directed to all the unchurched people of Hastings.

PRAY for David Cobb, a Mission Service Corps volunteer, working in resort visitation evangelism ministry. Pray that a rice farm in Dumas, Ark. will sell so that David can use the proceeds to support his ministry.

PRAY for Michael Ohaneson of Loxahatchee, Fla., who is prayer chairman for the Palm Lake Baptist Association. He asks for prayer for Robert Cochran, the new director for establishing work in the association. There is a great need for ethnic and Anglo outreach. Pray that God will lead Robert and the churches to develop new congregations. Pray for Michael as he leads the association to give prayer the place God wants it to occupy.

PRAY for the two Mississippi missionary couples who ask for prayer for their work in Bolivia. (Tom and Cynthia Martin and Kenneth and Ruth Bailey). They write, "Pray for us in the struggle we face to live and witness here in Bolivia. Giving a Christian witness is increasingly difficult because of traditional religions, Spiritism and the occult, that close the minds and hearts of many to the Gospel. Recently there have been a number of health problems in our Mission. We appreciate PRAYERGRAM in HouseTops in the Baptist Record. Please share this request with as many folks as possible."

PRAY for the Bible Drill Clinics to be held in Jackson, Hernando, Tupelo and Starkville during the month of Nov.

PRAY for the Directors of Missions of our Miss. Associations. Pray that they may be encouraged in their work by the knowledge that they are being prayed for. HT

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

Mississippi College
Clinton, Miss.

December 28-29, 1992



LOU LEVENTHAL
Illusionist
Crowley, Texas



DENNIS LEE
Ventriloquist
Dallas, Texas



LOUIE GIGLIO
Evangelist
Waco, Texas



SAM PERRY
and "Choice Worship"
Waco, Texas

REGISTRATION
FEE: \$5

Sponsored by:
Evangelism Department, J. Garland McKee, Director
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Bill Causey, Executive Director-Treasurer

PASTORS AND YOUTH MINISTERS

Please register for Youth Evangelism Conference

All that is needed is the number of young people you will bring and the registration fee of \$5 per person. This allows us to prepare a box of programs and other materials especially for your group. This allows you to move immediately into the coliseum without confusion on the day the conference begins. Send to Attention, Patsy Bozeman, Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205



THE GURUVE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH

By Hiram Powell

Chifamba Baptist Church is located on a barren ridge in northwest Zimbabwe approximately 120 kilometers from the city of Harare. The pastor is one of two home missionaries sponsored by the Zimbabwe National Convention. This dedicated man, Ephraim Maseko, lives in the most austere circumstances and endeavors to minister to his extremely scattered people using a very battered motorbike. Mississippi volunteers, Leon Emery, Ingram Foster, Pastor Isaac Chigede from Calvary Baptist Church in Harare and Hi-

ram Powell, Mississippi Partnership Coordinator, journeyed to this remote location on June 26, 1992, to initiate a three-day revival at the Chifamba church and to witness to an even more remote location in a village 20 kilometers from Chifamba. The entire area has been devastated by the drought. The people and their cattle are struggling to survive. All of the crops have failed and there is no forage for the cattle. The few low trees still standing have been stripped of their leaves by the starving cattle and goats. The weather was cold and extremely high winds coursed the ridge adding to the mystery and stripping the loose soil away.

Chifamba church is an open, grass thatched shed approximately 20 x 40 feet. Crude seats had been made by mixing mud and manure. These had hardened like concrete and served the purpose, though less than comfortable. There was no electricity and we purchased a kerosene lantern to hang from the rafter to give some semblance of light. The services were packed by these very friendly, very responsive nationals. Africans excel at spontaneous, beautiful harmony and they can sing for hours. The services rang with their enthusiastic praise songs and they listened closely to each of Leon Emery's messages. There were many commitments throughout the services at Chifamba.

From Chifamba we journeyed to the location 20 kilometers away. Ephraim Maseko, the home missionary, accompanied us. This yet unnamed village was located on an abandoned farm at the foot of the mountains and we journeyed over washboard gravel and asphalt strip roads to get there. We walked a considerable distance to reach the extreme back of the area and held a brief service. Throughout the village we invited everyone to come to the service the next day. When we came back the next day many people had already assembled in the

open field at the edge of the old farm buildings. The radio in the bottle store blared loudly throughout the service, but the Spirit of the Lord was there and many people responded to Brother Emery's message and the testimonies of the others. Brother Chegede interpreted and after the service was over the elders of the group stated that they wanted to begin a church then and there and so it was done, but still unnamed.

On Sunday, September 13, 1992, the existence of that church planted in June, was confirmed.

Four of us, Pastor Chegede and his wife and the two of us, Shirley and Hiram Powell, made a return trip to Chifamba church to participate in the baptism of 31 converts from the distant village. They had named their church, "The Guruve Mississippi Baptist Church." After a service in the Chifamba chapel, we made our way down the long, steep, winding path to a watering pond where the 31 converts were baptized in the muddy water, where a short distance away, at least one hundred cows were drinking. In contrast to the June meetings this was an extremely hot day and Shirley and I came away red from the intense sun. Later on we crammed an unbelievable number of people in the van and transported them the 20 kilometers to their home village. They sang all the way. As they left the van, the church leader urged me to do two things: send them some Bibles written in the Shona language and, to pray for them since they were under intense pressure from the non-believers in the village. The Bibles have been made available and I ask Mississippians to join us as we pray for these new Christians and their new church in this distant and tortured land. **HT**

1993 State Evangelism Conference

The state Evangelism Conference is Jan. 25-26 at West Jackson Street Church in Tupelo. Ed Young, Laurel native and president of the SBC will preach the opening message on Monday afternoon. Dick Baker, a praise and worship leader from Dallas, will direct the music. Bo Baker, international evangelist, will preach. Other preachers, though not all, include Paul Powell, president of the Annuity Board; William Augustus (Bill) Jones, a pastor from Brooklyn, N.Y.; P.J. Scott, pastor of First Church, Olive Branch; and Danny Lanier, an evangelist from Little Rock. J. Garland McKee, evangelism director, says that the event will be a "spiritual feast." He adds that by pastors inviting laypeople to attend, "this will help to assure your having an evangelistic church." **HT**

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM CURRENT GIFTS 1992

■ Receipts
■ Needs
— 1991



Delta Mini Lab

A conference on
**"How to Plan Fun Activities for
Your Church"**

November 19
7 p.m. - First Baptist Church, Greenwood

Guest Speaker:
Bobby Shows
Minister of Activities, North Little Rock, AR

Topics:

- How to have a recreation program with or without a recreation facility
- How to use sports as an outreach tool
- How to use photography in the church
- How to use retreats and fellowships

Plus:

- Recreation Ministries for Senior Adults, Youth, Singles, and Intergenerational groups

ALASKA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Consider some of the following needs by TANANA VALLEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (FAIRBANKS AREA).

1. Assist Baptist Churches in Russia
 - Train Leadership
 - Purchase Russian Bibles
 - Teach English as a Second Language
 - Do VBS/Mission VBS and/or Backyard Bible Clubs
2. Help with Summer Camps
 - Serve as Nurse, Counselor
 - Serve as Camp Administrator
3. Assist with State Convention in August
 - Staff Day Camping Activities
 - Staff Pre-School Care During Convention
 - Help with Displays
4. Help with Evangelistic Efforts as Pre-Convention Activity - July 28 - August 2, 1993
 - Preach in Mini-Revivals
 - Conduct Door-to-Door Surveys and Witness
 - (Need 80 - 100 People)
5. A Minister of Education for One Week Consultation and Training in a Local Church
6. Help with VBS in Churches and Missions for June - July
7. Ministry Needs
 - Camp Cooks, Counselors, Crafts Help, etc. Holiday Foods for Indian Missions
 - Winter Clothing for TOK Baptist Mission
 - Language Bibles in Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, Russian
 - Toys for Christmas at Indian School Gifts Including
Knit Gloves, Hats, Scarves, Tube Socks, and a
Small Toy - Ages: Preschool - Teens
 - Interim Pastoral Help

Should the above information create an interest or the desire for more information, contact Bill Hardy in the Partnership Missions Office, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or call 968-3800.



Sponsored by:
Discipleship Training
Department

J. D. Joslin:
Cooperative Program
Champion

by Debbie Baird Buie

When J. D. Joslin retired from the pastorate of First Baptist, Hickory Flat almost 12 years ago he accepted a call as interim of Pharsalia Church in Panola County. It wasn't long before the people there wanted him as pastor of the small church. It is a love relationship Joslin has for Pharsalia's people. But an even greater love leads him to give through the Cooperative Program. That love focuses on spreading the gospel.

"There are several scripture passages that have influenced my giving but the one that bounces to mind is the Great Commission," Joslin said. "I feel the Cooperative Program is the best plan we have, and as far as that goes it is the best any group has of sharing the gospel here and around the world. It is what our Lord commanded us to do, and as His people we want to be obedient."

Joslin believes every member of his congregation, as well as all Southern Baptists, need to know about the Cooperative Program and its far-reaching effect on winning the world to Christ. "They need to know, to be informed of needs. When we give, and lead people to give, then they are blessed in learning and experiencing the spirit of sharing and giving," he said. He informs, but also leads by example of his personal giving.

Pharsalia has grown in their commitment to missions giving. Like so many other churches they will continue to grow and do more. To encourage that growth Joslin furnishes members with literature that informs and inspires stewardship and giving through the Cooperative Program.

"It is our responsibility and our privilege to share around the world through our gifts. Informing all Southern Baptists of needs stimulates response," Joslin said.

Joslin points to his mother as one inspiration for his giving spirit. Widowed when he was only 2, and with two other children, his mother continued giving to the Lord when she could have well used the money on her family. His childhood pastor was his other inspiration. "Our small country church believed in giving and supporting missions. My pastor preached it," he said.

There are those now at Pharsalia who are growing in the joy of giving. If asked someday why they give they will also say, "My pastor preached it."

—Buie is a freelance writer
living in Vicksburg.





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Colson sounds warning of "evangelical eclipse"

By Daniel Cattau

DALLAS (ABP) — Charles Colson, once the consummate White House insider and now a born-again Christian, looks at politics and the evangelical movement from the outside.

Evangelicals, who enjoyed a resurgence in the mid-1970s and 1980s, have lost influence by becoming identified too closely with a particular political group or agenda, he said. He described the situation as a tragedy.

"We've won the political battles but lost the cultural war," the former adviser to President Richard Nixon said in a Dallas interview recently. Colson was in Dallas to speak at Criswell College and Dallas Theological Seminary.

"Ultimately, we're going to lose the political battle," Colson said.

Colson even talks about the "coming eclipse of evangelicals" if

they don't start getting their churches in order.

"If this were a business," he said, "you'd be contemplating Chapter 11," referring to bankruptcy.

A stolid Southern Baptist and evangelical, Colson has a reputation as an iconoclast in the ranks of the born-again. He is faithful to the cause yet critical of some of its tendencies toward scandal, internal bickering and self-righteousness.

With the election of Jimmy Carter as president, 1976 was declared the "year of the evangelical." Since then, the public's opinion of born-again Christians has dropped dramatically. Colson cited a Gallup Poll last year that showed 50% of those surveyed feared fundamentalists more than any other group in society.

Cattau is religion editor of the DALLAS MORNING NEWS.

Law retires FMB early; disagrees with direction

By Robert O'Brien

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Betty Law has announced she will retire early as Foreign Mission Board vice president for the Americas, citing disagreement with the approach taken by board trustees.

A veteran of 40 years in Southern Baptist home and foreign missions, Law is the board's highest-ranking female staff member and is the second vice president to take early retirement because of disagreement with trustees. Isam Ballenger, then vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, announced early retirement last January.

In a letter dated Oct. 22 to retiring board President R. Keith Parks, Law said she will retire next Jan. 15 after 29 years with the board, the final three as the top administrator for mission work in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada. She sent copies of the letter to some 1,350 missionaries in the region and to 17 trustees on the board's Americas committee.

Law, who turned 64 Nov. 8, told Parks she could no longer serve with integrity as vice president for the Americas because she can no longer "support and defend the actions, directions, and views of the trustees or fairly interpret" them to missionaries and Southern Baptists.

Funeral sparks stream of 22 baptisms in Virginia church

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A Virginia church recorded 22 baptisms stemming from contact with a grieving family.

Pastor Rodney Barwick of Gravel Hill Baptist Church near Clarksville, Va., immersed 22 members of the Belcher Wells family in the congregation's baptismal pool during a July service.

Contact between the Wells family and the church began when the man's wife asked a funeral director to suggest a minister to conduct the service; the director recommended Barwick.

The Sunday following the funeral, several Wells family members appeared in Gravel Hill's worship service, Barwick recounted. Shortly afterward, Mrs. Wells made a profession of faith and joined the church, he said.

"The next three or four Sundays, members of the family kept coming forward to accept Christ — daughters of Mrs. Wells and

their husbands and children," Barwick said.

The pastor arranged to baptize all of them on the same Sunday. Normally, he says, he baptizes candidates in order of age, from youngest to oldest. But Mrs. Wells insisted on being baptized first. During the service, he found out why.

"She stood at the bottom of the steps — dripping wet — and kissed every one of her grandchildren as they came out of the baptismal pool," Barwick reported.

Since their baptisms the Wells family has become an important addition to Gravel Hill Church. "They support the church.... They say they've found a home."

The Wells family brings to 28 the number of baptisms at Gravel Hill Church this year, a record for the congregation and Barwick himself.

"For a small, country church, this is really exciting," he said. "It's like being on a honeymoon."

Thursday, November 12, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Faces & Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams



Recipe for happiness

When a man is gloomy, everything seems to go wrong; when he is cheerful, everything seems right (Proverbs 15:15).

Happiness is chocolate souffle. Happiness in one sense of the word. And chocolate souffle when it's prepared at the Hotel Cidada at Cascais, Portugal, where the broad Tagus River flows into the Atlantic. Head chef Joao Manuel, who learned to cook in Lisbon and practiced his art in Switzerland, Venezuela, and Germany, said for the souffle he uses 8 eggs, 250 grams of sugar, and 350 grams of chocolate. This might be a bit too much happiness for one family, but could be scaled down. (Two cups equals 454 grams).

Separate the eggs, he said. Beat whites until they hold a peak. Then gradually add sugar while continuing to beat until no longer grainy. Fold in egg yolks and chocolate (melted). Bake 10 minutes in very hot oven.

To the head chef at the Bajondillo Hotel on the Mediterranean Costa del Sol in Torremolinos, Spain, happiness is cooking food that uses sauces. Juan Marquez said his favorite sauce is a Dutch one that uses (for the restaurant) 10 egg yolks and 2 2/10 lbs. butter, salt, lemon, and white pepper, or can be varied with cream or meat stock.

However, though some people deny it, happiness is more than meets the tongue. Writer Betty Carl-

son cooked up the best recipe for happiness I've come across. Here it is (ideas are hers; words are mine):

1. Be generous with your belongings, your time, yourself, for "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

2. Look for encouragement in the Bible, seeking to find through the power of the Holy Spirit God's message for you.

3. Be content with who you are and what you have.

4. Accept your present age.

5. Remember that all people are different, and don't try to change them. Love, encourage, and pray for others; and hope they will do the same for you.

6. Find something to be happy about right now. Don't wait for vacation time, retirement time, until you get married, or until your arthritis gets better.

7. When you do jobs that you don't like, such as cleaning the bathroom, do it as a "happy servant" — "do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men" (Colossians 3:23).

8. Be thankful.

9. Grasp the fact that no one in the world, including you, is perfect, and that the only real happiness is knowing God's remedy for sin: "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us... (1 John 1:7).

10. Understand that you will not be happy all the time because life contains suffering as well as joy, but also remember that "What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later" (Romans 8:18).



Lola Autry, right, interviews Chef Juan Marquez at Hotel Bajondillo, Torremolinos, Spain. Andrea, center, employee of Grand Circle Tours, interprets.

Retired Okla. exec endorses Fellowship

By Greg Warner

OKLAHOMA CITY (ABP) — The man who led Oklahoma Baptists to an unprecedented commitment to Southern Baptist missions endorsed the competing missions program of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Oct. 30.

In Oklahoma, Joe Ingram's name is virtually synonymous with the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified budget that supports missions and ministries at the state and national level.

As executive director of Oklahoma Baptists from 1971 to 1986, he led the state convention to raise its missions gifts to record levels and to send half the money it received from churches to the Fellowship's own mission program.

"I promoted the Cooperative Program as the best way to do missions" and "no one ever questioned my Southern Baptist loyalty," said Ingram, who retired in 1986.

But "problems" in that system now make alternatives like the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship necessary, he told members of the group's Oklahoma chapter.

Ingram said he has become "painfully aware" of those prob-

lems, which critics say have transformed the Southern Baptist Convention into a dogmatic denomination more concerned with theological orthodoxy than cooperation with other Baptists.

Ingram said he was not being critical of Southern Baptist leaders, who have "a legal right to do what they are doing today.... The real issue is whether or not their actions are within the spirit of the principles of cooperation that pour from the New Testament."

Leaders of the SBC have criticized the Fellowship for draining dollars away from the traditional Cooperative Program and into the Fellowship's own mission program.

But Ingram said those leaders should be reminded that the Cooperative Program is merely "a tool" of cooperation and not the goal itself. Churches have "the New Testament prerogative to choose the tools" they use to cooperate, he said. "A true New Testament church may not relinquish its sovereignty to any group or convention."

"I am... grateful that you and thousands like you across Southern Baptist life have determined to

preserve what I consider to be a New Testament approach to missions," Ingram told Fellowship members.

Although some critics insist those who support the Fellowship are not loyal Southern Baptists and should leave the denomination, Ingram disagreed.

"Your church is a thoroughgoing Southern Baptist church when you, under the Lordship of Christ, practice cooperative missions giving, by whatever name you choose to call it."

"I speak without rancor, anger or criticism," Ingram said. "Yet I know I stand to be criticized for my appearance here today.... However, I stand before you as one who is answerable only to my Lord."

Ingram spoke during the opening session of the first annual general assembly of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Oklahoma Oct. 30-31. The statewide organization, formed last February, adopted a constitution and budget at the October meeting.

About 400 people from 51 churches registered for the two-day meeting, held at an Oklahoma City hotel.

Warner is editor of ABP.



First Church, Coffeeville, held ground breaking ceremonies for its family life building, Sept. 1. Pictured above are members of the building, finance, and fur-

nishings committees, members of the congregation, and Rayford Boxx, building committee chairman, at center with shovel. Truman D. Scarborough is pastor.



A WMU and a Brotherhood were established in October at Poplar Springs Church, Itawamba Association. Pictured above are members of the WMU. They are, left to right, Cathy Mitchell, Helen Hall, Irene Williams, Pernie Mae Shields, Patsy Waddle, and Norma Jean Hall. Present to begin the new Brotherhood program were: left to right, bottom photo, Truman Shields, Kenneth Johnson, Matthew Waddle, Tommy Waddle, Sig Hall, Brian Pounders, David Mitchell, and Herb Hall. Terry Paul Graham is pastor.



Staff Changes

Byram Church, Jackson, has called Jan Halford as minister of youth, effective Oct. 14. A native of Jackson, Halford received her education at Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Her previous place of service was Elkdale Church, Selma, Ala.

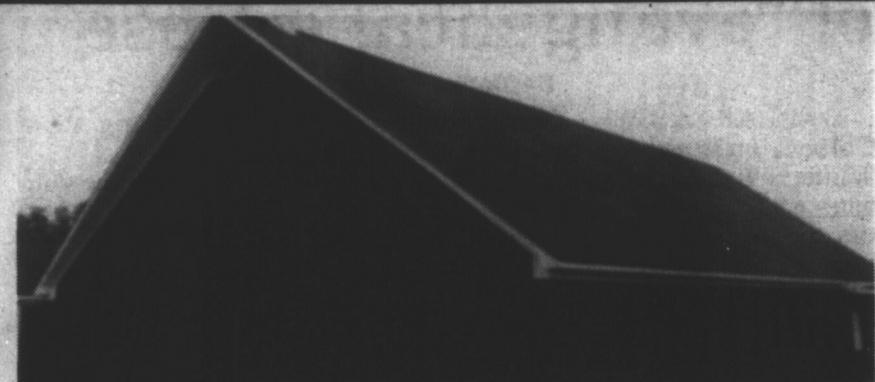
Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, has called G.W. Smith as interim pastor, effective Nov. 1. He goes to Bogue Chitto from Bala Chitto in Pike County.

Mt. Olive Church, Coila, has called Larry Edwards, a native of Carroll County, as pastor

effective in December. He was former pastor for eight years. His previous place of service was Gardiner, Montana.

Mt. Vernon Church, Meridian, has called Lee Walton as part-time minister of music and youth, effective Oct. 14. A native of Jackson, he is currently serving in the Navy and stationed at NAS-Meridian.

Southside Church, Yazoo Association, has called Shauna Moody as minister of music, effective Oct. 14. A native of Odessa, Texas, she is a student at Mississippi College.



West Ripley Church, Ripley, held a dedication service and open house for its new sanctuary and offices on Sept. 27. The sanctuary is approximately 7,200 square feet with a seating capacity of 638 people. The church presently has a membership of 614 and a Sunday School enrollment of 365. Billy W. Baker is pastor.

Conference focuses on Southern Baptists

The Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture announces a conference on "The American Denominational Future: the Southern Baptist Case." The conference will be held March 12-13, 1993, at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

The conference will employ recent Southern Baptist history in order to enhance our understanding of the American denominational future. How does the broader American denominational pattern inform our understanding of the Southern Baptist experience? Does recent Southern Baptist his-

tory help us understand the likely future direction of American denominationalism? What is the appropriate role for denominations in a "post denominational age?"

Plenary speakers, Bill Leonard, Nancy Ammerman, David Dockery, and Russell Rickey, will address these issues from both Baptist and non-Baptist points of view. Panelists will examine them from the perspective of the Baptist pulpit as well as from the vantage point of other denominational traditions. Other conference leadership will include D.L. Lowrie, First Church, Lubbock, Texas; Larry McSwain, Southern Semi-

nary; Nancy Sehested, Memphis; and Jerry Sutton, Nashville.

For additional information, write Louisville Institute for the Study of Protestantism and American Culture, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Louisville, KY 40205-1798 or call (502) 895-3411.

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First Church, Crystal Springs, recently held an Acteon Recognition service. Those girls who achieved queen status are, left to right, Jennie Sprouse, Dianne Lee, and Keri Sullivan.

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Mississippi senior choirs will perform in Atlanta

About 7,000 members from 199 Southern Baptist churches in 17 states will compose the choir at the senior adult convention in the Georgia Dome in Atlanta April 26-28, 1993, according to choir coordinator Jere Adams of the Baptist Sunday School Board Church Music Department.

Twenty-six choirs from Mississippi are scheduled to participate.

A Genevox musical titled "Don't Hang Up," has been written by Everett Robertson, BSSB drama specialist, Stan Pethel, professor of

music at Berry College, Rome, Ga., and Richard Baker, minister of music at Prestonwood Church, Dallas. It will be premiered by a 1,000 voice choir from Georgia on Tuesday, April 27. The choir, termed the largest senior adult choir ever assembled, will be directed by Bob Woolley, state music director for the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Other musical highlights of the convention will be appearances by renowned soprano soloist Myrtle Hall and Christian vocalist Steve Green.

Revival Dates

Cedar Grove, Columbia: Nov. 15-18; Roger P. Freeman, pastor, First, New Orleans, evangelist; June Williams, Cedar Grove, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; senior adult luncheon, Tues., 11 a.m.; youth pizza party, Tues. night; David Green, pastor.

Macedonia, Meridian: Nov. 15-19; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7:30 p.m. during week; different evangelist each service; Debbie Hocutt, Meridian, music; Danny Moss, pastor.

Oak Grove (Simpson): Nov. 15-18; 7 p.m. nightly; Ernest Sadler, speaker; Bob Harris, music.

Victory, Mathiston: Nov. 15-20; Steve Lammons, evangelist; Danny Hudson, minister of music; Higdon Herrington, pastor.

Wildwood, Laurel: Nov. 15-18; LaRue Stephens, McDowell

Road, Jackson, evangelist; Bob Barger, Harmony, Laurel, music; high attendance day, Sunday, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; service, 2-3:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with lunch served at noon; John Cockrell, pastor.

Riverside, Long Beach: Nov. 15-18; John Sapp, pastor, Success, Gulf Coast Association, evangelist; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sam Parker, pastor.

Eastside, Pearl: Nov. 15-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., lunch at noon and 7 p.m. services; Leon Dunn, pastor, Woodland Park, Hammond, La., evangelist; John Yates, music; Dennis Dunn, pastor.

Antioch Church (Neshoba): Nov. 15-19; 7 p.m. nightly; Danny Lanier, evangelist; James Young, pastor.

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Thursday, November 12, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News



New Hope Church, Columbus, recently ordained two new deacons. Pictured from left are Danny Rast, Bill Stratton, and Marion Dees Jr., pastor.



First Church, Olive Branch, recently licensed three young men to preach. Pictured are, left to right, P.J. Scott, pastor, Andy Turner, Scott Decker, and Stephen Fortune.



Howard Russell Barnes (right) of Terry has been awarded the United Parcel Service (UPS) scholarship at Mississippi College for the current academic year. Barnes, a nursing major, receives his award from Tom Prather of Clinton, director of financial aid at MC. UPS awarded almost \$1.5 million nationally in scholarship money during the 1992-93 session, with Mississippi students receiving \$11,750. (MC photo)

W. Morgan Patterson, former Mississippi Baptist pastor, is visiting professor of church history at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., for the 1992-93 academic year. Patterson was pastor of Progress Church, Pike Association, as well as interim pastor of other Mississippi churches.

Linnie K. Hammett Dabbs Howell, 43, music director at Salem Church near Carthage, died of cancer Oct. 26. She is survived by three children. She had been music

director for six years at the Leake County church.

Karen M. Johnston, 14, a member of Alexander M. Morris Church, Hollandale, received a pin for 10 years of perfect attendance. Her mother, Mrs. Claiborne Johnston, presented the pin to her. **Johnston**

Two students with ties to Mississippi recently received academic scholarships from Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., for the 1992-93 school year. **Wade "Barry" Cappleman** of Ripley received the F. Raymond Breibec Memorial Scholarship. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College. **Carl Sheffield** of Brandon received the Robert H. Ferguson Memorial Scholarship. He is a graduate of Mississippi College. **Cappleman**



Kokomo Church, Marion Association, recently honored its pastor, Glen Nace on his 10th anniversary as pastor. George Lee, former director of missions attended and the church presented the Naces with a love offering.

Sylvarena will celebrate 125th anniversary

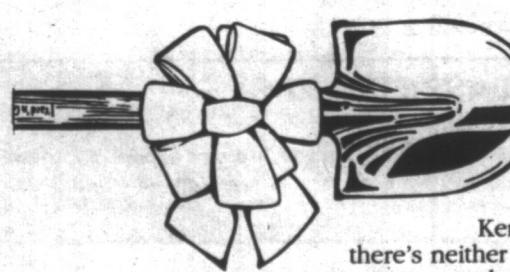
Sylvarena Church, Smith County, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Nov. 22. Activities will include Sunday School at 10 a.m., the celebration service at 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, and a 1:30 p.m. service. Houston Adkins will be the guest speaker. Alan E. Balliet is pastor.

Homecomings

Macedonia, Meridian: Nov. 15; 11 a.m.; Walter Blackman, First, Marion, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; 1 p.m. singing; The Disciple Quartet, guest singers; Danny Moss, pastor.

Bunker Hill, Columbia: Nov. 15; Sam Creel, Brandon, former pastor, guest speaker for 11 a.m. service; Charles Lewis Polk, Dallas, Texas, directing music; after covered dish dinner, Sidney Buckley, guest soloist, will present concert.

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Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
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Just for the Record

Thursday, November 12, 1992



New Hope Church, Foxworth, held its first combined recognition service for GAs and RAs on Sept. 27. GAs receiving badges for completing Mission Adventures are pictured above, left to right: front row, Karla Ratliff, Courtney Stringer, and Carrie Stringer — level 1; Jessica Stringer — levels 1 and 2; Amy Lowery and Lindsey Slocum — level 2; Becky Barnes and Carina Evans — level 3; back row, Crystal Barnes, Tiffany Kroner, and Jennifer Fortner — level 4; Mandy Stringer, Kristina Yancey, and Courtney Hatfield — level 5; Kim Lowery — level 6. GAs not pictured are Amanda Temples and Stefanie Bokles — level 5, and Monica Pounds — level 6. Leaders are Linda Clark, Beth Stringer, Janet Barnes, and Tami Haney.

RAs pictured below, left to right, front row, are Brently, Donavon, Cameron, Scott, Jeff, Josh, John; second row, Barry, Ashley, Cade, Ryan, Corey; third row, Buddy, Kelton, Matt, Ricky, Eli, Dustin. Leaders are Gail Campbell, Bridget Bedwell, Dianna Stringer, and Vicki Wesley.



Harmony Church, Brookhaven, will hold a dedication service for its new sanctuary Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. A reception and open house will follow. Dewey Smith is pastor.

Castlewoods Church, Brandon, will sponsor a fall crafts festival on Nov. 14 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot. There will be hand-crafted items, entertainment, and food sales. For more information, call 992-9977.

TRUTH, a music entourage of 25 young adults from across America, will present a concert on Nov. 19, 7 p.m., at **Highland Church, Laurel**. For more information, call 428-8493.

The National Institute for Church Planning and Consultation is sponsoring a seminar for pastors and key church leaders, March 1-5, 1993, at Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga. Kennon L. Callahan, who has received national recognition for his work as one of the leading church consultants in the country, will be leading the seminar. For further information, write The National Institute for Church Planning and Consultation, Southeastern Regional Center, P.O. Box 3463, LaGrange, GA 30241.

Alaska needs construction volunteers, July 5-16, 1993 to work at College Heights Church, Soldotna on the Kenai Peninsula, about 150 miles south of Anchorage. The work will mostly consist of hanging and finishing sheetrock, painting, plumbing, electrical, cabinets, etc. A \$70 deposit will hold a reservation; space is limited. For more information, call Olyn Roberts, Louisville, at (601) 773-5670.

Faith Church, Silver Creek, will hold its 10th anniversary celebration Nov. 15, beginning at 11 a.m.

Samuel L. Cox of Blue Springs was ordained Sept. 13 by Ellistown Church. He is the new pastor of Cornerstone Church, Potts Camp, effective July 26. Cox is a graduate of Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. **James L. Travis** brought the charge to the candidate. **Marvin Cox**, director of missions, Union Association, and father of Samuel Cox, brought the charge to the church. Pictured, left to right, are Travis, Samuel Cox, and Marvin Cox.

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Center Ridge Church, Yazoo City, presented "Pilgrimage of Praise" as a GA recognition service during the evening worship hour on Oct. 4. GAs receiving awards for Mission Adventures are pictured, left to right, first row, Audrey Vancleave, Lucy Johnston, Amy Savell, Crystal Vancleave; second row, Lacy Savell, Lynelle Vancleave, co-leader, Marie Warren, leader, Becky Warren, and Bryan Abel, pastor.

George Lee of Columbia will be the guest speaker. There will be a noon meal served in the fellowship hall. The Pearl Quartet will sing at 1 p.m. There will be no night services. John L. Jones is pastor.

The Continuing Education Office of New Orleans Seminary will conduct a workshop, "Help! I'm a Church Hostess," in the cam-

pus cafeteria, Jan. 19, 1993. Cost is \$20 per person, \$15 for students. To register or for more information, call the seminary at (504) 282-4455, ext. 3260.

Senior adults of First Church, Columbus' Live Longer and Like It group recently travelled to Shiloh National Cemetery. Wayne Jackson is minister of senior adults.

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Bethel Church, Tate Association, recently held a reception to honor **Milton Ingram** (left) for his 50 years as church clerk. Roy C. Wilson, pastor, presented Ingram with a plaque.

Uniform

Hosea, prophet of grace



By Margaret Rogers
Hosea 1:1-3; 3:1-2; 6:4-6; 11:1-4

Hosea was a northerner, a citizen of Israel, and the first of the writing prophets, considered Israel's first evangelist, a prophet of grace. Hosea's name means "salvation," equivalent to the names of Joshua and Jesus. His prophetic ministry was about 650-735 B.C.; he probably worked about 10 years after Amos. Conditions were generally the same as in the time of Amos — growing more threatening with the Assyrian doom. Internally, conditions were no better. The same sins blighted the land. Israel seemed unaware of danger and unresponsive to the mercies, guidance, and warnings of Jehovah, their God.

Little is known of the background of Hosea. It was a domestic tragedy that gave Hosea the impetus to become a great preacher and prophet of love. How could one explain Jehovah's words to Hosea, "Go, take a wife of whoredom and children of whoredom?" Some scholars interpret this scripture that Hosea married a prostitute. Others believe that Hosea married Gomer, who at the time was a chaste woman, but later became a prostitute. This last interpretation seems the more reasonable one, for only it reveals the relationship between God and Israel.

The marriage of Hosea (Hosea 1:1-3). This scripture indicates Hosea's authority and commission, "the word of the Lord came unto him." A particular account of the times he prophesied are in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam, king of Israel. He evidently began to prophesy while still young and continued to old age. The prophet must deliver God's message to show the nation their sin; that they were an evil and adulterous generation. Their idolatry is the whoredom with which they were charged. The people were a dishonor to God. Hosea could relate to God's grief over Israel, for he too was involved in a disastrous love relationship at home.

Hosea reclaims his wife (3:1-2). Gomer had three children. Her first child was a son named Jezreel, because God was to punish and annihilate Israel. The second child was a daughter named Lo-Ruhamah which signified God's not forgiving Israel, and that he would save Judah. Gomer bore another son called Lo-Ammi. This name indicated God's rejection of Israel: "You are not my people, and I am not your God." As God's people turned their backs on him, so Gomer left her family. God told Hosea to buy her back from slavery, bring her back home, and love her. Hosea obeyed and told Gomer she was to be faithful to him and that he would live with her.

God's lament for his people (6:4-6). God had loved Israel and blessed her, but how fickle and faithless she had been! His warnings had been ignored. Their religion had been meaningless and God hewed them as a rough stone. As God reminded them, he must slay them by his judgments, that his words would be the death of their sins or the sinners. They were unfaithful to God's covenant; the loyal love of God within the covenant had been spurned.

The love of God for all (11:1-4). In one of the Scripture's most beautiful chapters God expressed his continuing love for his disobedient people. God had been so gracious to Israel. He had kindness for his people when they were a young nation. When they began to multiply, he set his love upon them and delivered them out of bondage in Egypt. He gave them commandments and taught them to follow his ways. When anything went amiss, God in his role of physician healed them. He brought them into his service by mild and gentle methods; he drew them with bands of love and eased their burdens.

This bitter tragedy in Hosea's life enabled him to understand something of God's immeasurable love for a people who rejected him. His experiences motivated Hosea to plead with the people to return to the God who loved them so intensely. The message of Hosea is one of the most tender and appealing of all the prophets. The story of his life and his prophecy should remind Christians how deeply God is grieved by their sins. It should inspire Christians to repent and should instill a desire to follow God with loving obedience.

Rogers is a member of Salem Church, Collins.

Bible Book

Sovereign choice of Israel



By R. David Raddin
Romans 9:1-8, 13-16, 21-24

God chose Israel to be his people. Israel by and large rejected Christ. God chose to send Christ that "whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Many persons today reject the Lord and do not believe in Jesus. God chooses to offer you life through Christ. Will you accept him?

Paul's sorrow concerning Israel (9:1-5). "I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel" (vv. 2-3). What sorrow Paul must have felt that his own people rejected Christ. He was willing to give up his own saving relationship to the Lord if Israel would believe in Jesus.

In verses 4 and 5, Paul describes the tragedy of Israel's rejection of the Lord. They were the people of the covenant, God's covenant with them. They were people who had known God's presence for generations. Israel had worshiped the Lord. They were God's people, yet they rejected Christ.

Paul was in sorrow because of those who did not believe in Jesus. How we need Christians today whose hearts are broken for the lost. Paul was willing to do anything that his own people would be saved. What about those of us who are Christians? What are we willing to do that others will know Jesus?

God's promise to Israel not broken (9:6-8, 13). God's promise of salvation is real, but so is human responsibility. God's promise is not broken because a person rejects him. A person is broken when he or she rejects the Lord. "It is not as though God's Word had failed" (v. 6).

God's covenant is not biological; his covenant is relational. Because one is born to a family of Israel, a family that is Christian, or any other biological family does not determine that person's destiny. The covenant is relational in that each person is responsible for his or her relationship to God. "In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring" (v. 8).

God not unfair in his sovereign choice (9:14-16). "What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.' It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy" (vv. 14-16).

Paul quotes from Exodus 33:19 in the account of God's reaction to the Israelites who worshiped the golden calf. They deserved God's judgment. He showed them mercy.

As with Israel, nothing any person can desire or do can cause God to withhold his judgment. God's mercy is a person's only way to experience God withholding judgment. Let us pray for God's mercy as we turn our lives to him. To those who reject Jesus Christ, God's judgment will come.

God's right to choose (9:21-24). "Does not the potter have the right to make out of the lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use? What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath — prepared for destruction. What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory — even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?" (vv. 21-24).

God's wrath comes against sin. Paul points to the unbelieving Jews as objects of God's wrath (vv. 22). Through his dealing by the revelation of his wrath and power with the Jews who did not believe in Christ, God intends to make known the riches of his glory (vv. 23).

In the midst of a sinful world, God calls persons to know his mercy, even us.

Raddin is pastor, First Church, Yazoo City.

Life and Work

Be prepared, equipped



By Milton Burd
2 Timothy 3:1-5, 10-17

The Boy Scout motto is "Be prepared." Scouts are taught skills that will help prepare them to meet the challenges that life can bring. In 2 Timothy 3, Paul advised Timothy to "be prepared" for difficult days ahead. Spiritual resources would be needed to equip him (and other Christians) through such inevitable days. Paul informed Timothy about the character of the last days, and then instructed him on how to respond.

A description of difficult times (vv. 1-5). The word "terrible" in verse 1 can also be translated as "difficult" or "violent." Paul was speaking of difficult times in the last days. "In the last days" can be interpreted as the time immediately preceding the return of Christ or the time that began with the coming of Christ. So, "the last days" could take on the meaning of the period between the arrival of Christ (the Incarnation) and the second coming of Christ.

In verses 2-5, Paul lists the characteristics of the people responsible for the difficult days. They are described as lovers of self: covetous of money and things, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God. "They even will have a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof." Read the complete list of characteristics from the text. Instead of honoring what is good, they despise the good and respect evil. The choice is between loving God or loving evil. Paul's warning to Timothy was to turn away from such things. The Christian is to choose God and his ways.

Paul's example and conduct (vv. 10-11). Christians are strengthened when they know of others who have endured for Christ. Paul challenged Timothy to follow his example. He reminded Timothy of his true teaching of doctrines, his manner of life, purpose, faith, long suffering, love, and patience. He had experienced persecutions and afflictions, specifically at Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra, and had endured them for the sake of the gospel. But the Lord delivered him from those persecutions. Paul wanted to emphasize to Timothy that it was very important for him and all the early Christians to follow the right spiritual leader. Paul certainly was the right spiritual leader to emulate. Paul was the key leader in keeping the early church on a sound doctrinal course. Paul had the endurance to complete the task to which he was called. His desire was for Timothy to remain strong in his leadership role.

Contrast between godly and evil persons (vv. 12-13). Christians may be equipped by knowing that those who strive to lead a godly life in Christ will bear the scars of persecution, while the evil continue to deceive and be deceived. Persecution was a way of life for the early church. Paul was not the only one to experience persecution. Many actually bore the scars of their persecution, or gave their lives. Jesus taught his disciples to expect persecution (John 15:20). We may not bear physical scars, but some bear mental scars from rejection and persecution today.

Equipped for solid spiritual growth (vv. 14-15). Paul requested Timothy to continue in what he had learned. This request was reassuring to Timothy because of Paul, his mentor in the faith. He also learned well from his mother, Eunice, and grandmother, Lois, who taught him Scripture from early childhood. Timothy had a solid foundation to build on. This is a crucial principle for parents: to teach the Bible to children. This is a parental responsibility, but the church can assist through Sunday School, VBS, and other opportunities. Children need to have an appreciation for God's Word and respect its authority and guidance.

Paul knew that knowledge, understanding, and application of the Scriptures would equip Timothy and all Christians to serve God. Paul was reassuring Timothy that the Scriptures are God-breathed. The Bible is profitable (useful) for teaching (what is right), for rebuking (what is not right), correcting (how to get it right), and training (how to stay right). The Bible serves as a guide for right living for Christians today. We should commit ourselves to making God's Word a priority in our lives. The Bible can prepare us for "every good work" (v. 17). It serves as "a lamp to our feet and a light to our path" (Psalms 119: 105).

Burd is minister of education, First Church, Cleveland.

capsules

WARNKE CALLS HIS CRITICS PART OF SATANIC CONSPIRACY: CAROL STREAM, Ill. (EP) — Critics who have attacked Mike Warnke are members of a satanic cult, Warnke said in an interview obtained by Christianity Today. Warnke's ministry was rocked by scandal earlier this year when Cornerstone magazine published a well-researched article accusing him of fabricating his Satanist past. A short while later, articles in the Lexington Herald-Leader revealed that Warnke Ministries lost its tax-exempt status a year ago, and that the ministry paid Warnke and three family members nearly \$1 million in annual salaries. Warnke concluded, "When all this came out, I answered all the allegations, and no one was satisfied. Now, the next time I respond, I'm going to level my big guns on everybody, and I'm not going to quit shooting until I blow them all out of the water. They're going to be very very sorry." —Christianity Today.

SOUTHERN SEMINARY WILL CO-SPONSOR MOSCOW CENTER: LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Seminary and Russian Baptists are launching a joint venture of ministerial training in Moscow. "The Christian Training Center of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of Russia" will open its doors in May. It will train pastors to serve Russia's burgeoning Baptist population, said Southern Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt. "Southern Seminary is pleased to help Russian Baptists train pastors during a time of unprecedented opportunity for spreading the gospel in that nation," Honeycutt said. "A trained leadership is essential for Russian Baptists to establish and grow new congregations." About 40 pastors are expected to enroll in the first year of courses to be taught at the Russian Baptist union headquarters.

RELIGIOUS RIGHT MAY DIVIDE REPUBLICAN PARTY, CARTER SAYS: DELAND, Fla. (ABP) — The influence of the Religious Right may be waning, but the movement may still be strong enough to split the Republican Party, said former President Jimmy Carter. "The Religious Right probably has peaked and is going down, but they will capture at least half of the Republican Party," Carter told a group of students Oct. 26. During a question-and-answer session at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., Carter said Americans have grown skeptical of the Religious Right's "merging of religion and the state." While the movement's influence on American culture may be weakening, he said, its role in the Republican Party is growing. "In the last eight or 10 years, there's been an increasing merger between the conservative element of the Republican Party and the conservative Religious Right," the Democrat said. Carter, a Southern Baptist, said the Religious Right was "a small group" in 1976 when he was running for president. "By 1980 the Religious Right had grown to be a powerful force in the country." The movement is credited with contributing to Ronald Reagan's win over Carter in 1980, when Carter lost his re-election bid. Carter said the influence of the Religious Right presents problems not only in politics but in churches as well. The merger of conservative politics and religion, he said, has influenced his own denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, which "almost invariably invites Reagan or Bush or Quayle" to speak to its annual meetings.

BAPTISTS TO CLOSE GAZA NURSING SCHOOL: GAZA (BP) — Southern Baptists will close their nursing school in the Israeli-occupied territory of Gaza next spring after fighting for years to keep it operating amid growing difficulties. They are discussing possibly allowing a United Nations relief agency to use the facility to start its own nursing school. Forced to depend heavily on short-term workers, Southern Baptist representatives have questioned at the end of each school term whether teachers would be found for the next. More recently they began wondering if it's wise to invite someone to work in such a traumatic place. "This has been coming so long," said Nancie Wingo, an English teacher at the school who arrived in Gaza about the time the Palestinian uprising was born. "Since I came, (Southern Baptist workers) have been leaving. And not enough new ones have come." But Wingo sees the nursing school's closing in a different light. While she and others in Gaza are sorry to close such a significant ministry, they feel it is in God's timing. "We've had many things change in Gaza in the last five years that have made it harder to work here," she said. By this time next year, as few as five Southern Baptist workers could be assigned to Gaza — down from 22 in 1985.

LITTLE ROCK'S IMMANUEL BAPTIST TO BE HOME CHURCH OF A PRESIDENT: LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — Rex Horne Jr., pastor of Little Rock's Immanuel Church, recognizes he is in a very rare position. Since Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton won Tuesday's election, Horne is now pastor to the president-elect of the United States. "There are no real pamphlets or manuals on how you conduct yourself as the pastor of a presidential candidate or the president," Horne said in a recent interview at Immanuel, a Southern Baptist church with more than 4,300 members. Since joining Immanuel, Clinton has been involved in the choir and is "a good musician, a good singer," said Lynn Madden, Immanuel's music director.

Home missionary plowing ground in new mission field

By Teresa Dickens

Plowing new ground is not a new experience for Dottie Williamson. In the early '80s, Williamson was named one of Southern Baptists' first female church planters. A decade later, she became the first Home Mission Board missionary assigned to work in Mississippi in multi-family housing ministry.

Williamson currently serves as director of new work and multi-family housing ministry for Hinds-Madison Association. While her primary work is with churches in metropolitan Jackson, she also has done consulting work with churches in other parts of the state since assuming her role last January.

The "new work" aspect of her assignment in metropolitan Jackson is old hat for Williamson, a native of North Carolina. She started four churches in Virginia between 1981 and 1989, and Rolling Hills Chapel in Pearl River County, 1989-91.

The "multi-family housing" aspect, however, is a different story. Before last January, Williamson had never done work in that particular area of ministry. She recalls feeling a little unsure as

where to start and really wasn't sure people living in apartment complexes wanted any ministry directed toward them. But she knew from the statistics that someone needed to be ministering to them — only 4% of multi-family housing residents attend church. And with 176 apartment complexes listed in Jackson's telephone book, she recognized that she had a large mission field as her assignment.

Over the last 11 months Williamson has tried to infiltrate metropolitan Jackson's multi-family housing communities through direct marketing and personal contacts. Thirty one of the 176 have agreed to let volunteers in to offer programs.

At the same time, she has been busy recruiting volunteers from area churches to lead Big-A Clubs, Backyard Bible Clubs, Sunday Schools, personal development classes, and to meet a variety of other requests made by complex managers. Eight churches sponsored short-term projects throughout the summer. Four currently have on-going programs in com-

plexes throughout metro Jackson.

The year also has been an educational time for Williamson. While some of her newly-gained knowledge has come from reading books, attending conferences, and talking with colleagues in the field, much of her "education" has come from doing the ministry.

Much of what she has learned pertains to apartment complex residents. "People who live in apartments are no different than people in houses," Williamson shared. "They are open to Christianity and respond to the love and concern demonstrated by volunteers with open hearts."

Noting that managers are "the key" to ministry in the complexes, she said, "They really care about the residents in their communities. They want to help them, but don't know how, don't have the time, or can't afford it. They are very pleased that we want to come in and help their residents."

She also has learned that church members want to be involved in ministry, but often feel inadequate and afraid or have no idea where to start.

"Many Christians feel they need theological training to do ministry," she said. "I tell laypeople that if they can hand out cookies, lend a listening ear, or show love to a child, they are ready to do ministry."

"The goal of multi-family housing ministry is to take the church to the people since they won't come to us," Williamson explained. "We can do that in all sorts of ways. All that is needed is availability and commitment to do it."

"The greatest blessing for me is seeing people get involved in ministry and discovering that it was something they needed."

As far as her role as a leader in multi-family housing ministry, Williamson is quick to point out that the real leaders are the volunteers. "They are really the ones 'doing' the ministry," she concluded. "I'm just along to bask in their glory."



Melissa Bruner is one of several volunteers from First Church, Jackson, who conducts Sunday School on Sunday afternoon at Payton Gardens in Pearl. Miss Bruner said the experience is an opportunity to "share Jesus with the children and to meet needs in their lives." (Photo by T. Dickens)

Bus ministry proponent advises careful planning

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — While Russ Richardson hopes many Southern Baptist churches will join a renewed emphasis for bus ministry, he cautions that careful planning, training, and hard work are needed to avoid failure.

Richardson, pastor of First Church in Anadarko, Okla., led sessions on bus ministry during

the Small Sunday School Leadership Conference at Glorieta Conference Center Aug. 24-28. He wrote the Bus Ministry Handbook available from the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Training will be offered next year during each Sunday School Leadership Conference at Glorieta and Ridgecrest conference centers, Richardson said.

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